

Lipinski Congratulates the People of Poland on the 30th Anniversary of Solidarity

Congressman Dan Lipinski (IL-3) released the following statement today marking the 30th anniversary of the birth of Poland's Solidarity movement:

“Today, we honor the extraordinary courage of all those men and women who together stood up to their communist oppressors and took the first step on the path to the liberation of Poland and ultimately the collapse of the Soviet Union. Though they faced a regime that had not hesitated to resort to violence in the past, the united front that the striking workers at Gdansk presented never fractured, and in the end it was the Communist Party that blinked and gave way to their demands. When the unprecedented accord between the government and the workers was finally signed by Lech Walesa on August 31, 1980, it marked the beginning of a new era for the Polish people and indeed all of Europe. The fire of liberty had been lit, and much as its enemies tried to extinguish it over the next decade, they could not.

“Thirty years later, we see the fruits of that heroic, nonviolent movement in the democratic Poland of today. Poland can take great pride in its historic role in the battle against tyranny, and America is proud to count it among its most trusted allies. As a Polish-American, as co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Poland, and as someone who represents a part of the most Polish city outside of Warsaw, I hereby extend my best wishes to the Polish people on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the birth of the Solidarity movement.”